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DFS

Amman

3 November 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Nicosia Bureau--October 1981

I. GENERAL

The 6 October assassination of Egyptian President as-Sadat, the increasingly open manifestation of internal opposition in Egypt and the Socialist Party victory in the 18 October Greek Parliamentary elections largely accounted for yet another Nicosia filed wordage record--827,000 words--in October, the sixth bureau record in the past seven months. The As-Sadat assassination occurred during a military parade, the live radio relay of which was being covered by Nicosia Bureau. In the wake of the attack, the bureau remained open on a 24-hour basis--with editorial, monitorial and teletype TDY assistance from London Bureau--until 19 October. During the same period the bureau was involved in an extensive coordination effort with London, Jordan and Gulf bureaus to maintain continuous coverage of Libyan media for related coverage.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. As of 19 October, in response to events in Egypt and to heightened tension elsewhere in the Middle East, the bureau extended its official closing time by one hour to 2400 GMT. The bureau actually remains open until Cairo MENA signs off for the night, which has, in fact, occurred closer to 0100 GMT more often than not since the 19th. The bureau has consequently extended its Paris AFP coverage to 2400 GMT.

2. In an effort to provide Cairo TV coverage of President As-Sadat's 10 October funeral, the bureau located and purchased a special TV antenna which was reconfigured and installed on the roof of the bureau by 9 October. We were not able to pick up a good picture on Cairo TV during the funeral. Subsequently, additional adjustments have been made on the equipment and reception of Cairo and other TV's in the region is being surveyed. Observations will be forwarded to Washington when completed. One "catch" already made during this cruiseout was an Ankara TV live 2-hour relay of the installation of the new Turkish Consultative Assembly, which has already been forwarded to Washington at its request.

3. Following review by and coordination with Analysis Group, the bureau has cut back on its selection requirements on material from the clandestine Iranian radios. We have also asked for Headquarters' help in identification of other areas where wordage can be curtailed without sacrificing useful material.

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B. Lateral/Special Services

The bureau pouched to FCS a copy of the tape recording of the live relay recording of the military parade at which Egyptian President As-Sadat was assassinated.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. London Senior Editor [redacted] Teletype Supervisor [redacted] and PMU Arabic-language Monitor [redacted] TDY'd at the bureau 6-19 October. PMU Arabic-language Monitor [redacted] who was already vacationing in Cyprus at the time of the As-Sadat assassination, also TDY'd at the bureau 7-11 October. STAT STAT STAT

B. The bureau financial and property records were audited by a Headquarters team 17-21 October.

IV. VISITS

New U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Raymond C. Ewing was given an official tour of the bureau and a briefing on FBIS Middle East operations on 21 October.

V. OTHER

A. Having been told that the birth announcement had already been scheduled for the October report, [redacted] wife of editor [redacted] loyally gave birth to a healthy 7 1/2 lb. boy, [redacted] on 31 October thus putting the needs of FBIS above the certainty of having a son fated to share his birthday with Halloween goblins throughout life. Jody had already bravely bypassed her original due date--October 15th--to avoid interference with the bureau's thin, all-night staffing schedule at that time. STAT STAT

B. Tel Aviv Bureau provided unusual support during the bureau's all-night watch period. Tel Aviv Chief Teletypist [redacted] unexpectedly showed up at the bureau in the early hours of the morning on 9 October with pancake mix, syrup and a huge can of eggplant--truly a thoughtful "care" package. STAT

[redacted] STAT

Nicosia Bureau Chief

Attachments:
A. Operations (including Production and Traffic Reports)
B. Engineering Report

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